United Nations A/62/564

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 2007

Original: English

**Sixty-second session**
Agenda item 129

# Programme planning

## Report of the Fifth Committee

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## I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 12th and 21st meetings, on 29 October and 6 December 2007. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/62/SR.12 and 21).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-seventh session[1] and the report of the Secretary-General on the experience gained in the planning and budgeting process (A/62/81).

4. At the 12th meeting, on 29 October 2007, the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination introduced the report of that Committee (see A/C.5/62/SR.12).

## II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.7

5. At its 21st meeting, on 6 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Programme planning" (A/C.5/62/L.7), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Malawi.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/62/16).

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6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.7 without a vote (see para. 8).

7. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of position; after the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Japan, and the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, made statements in explanation of position (see A/C.5/62/SR.21).

# III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

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*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002, 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003, 59/275 of 23 December 2004, 60/257 of 8 May 2006 and 61/235 of 22 December 2006,

*Recalling also* the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as outlined in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976,

*Having considered* the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, on the work of its forty-seventh session[1] and the report of the Secretary-General on experience gained in the planning and budgeting process,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

2. *Re-emphasizes* the role of the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;[3]

3. *Stresses* that setting the priorities of the United Nations is the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates;

4. *Also stresses* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

5. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, on programme planning, on evaluation, on the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2006/07, on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and on improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate;[4]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/62/16).

[2] A/62/81.

[3] ST/SGB/2000/8.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/62/16), chaps. II, III.A and C, IV.A and B and V.

6. *Decides* to discontinue preparation of the report under the agenda item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", mandated in accordance with its resolution 45/254 A of 21 December 1990;

7. *Stresses* the urgent need to fill the position of Special Adviser on Africa in order to direct international efforts to ensure that African issues remain a priority on the global development agenda and the need to mobilize support for capacity and resources and to align funds, agencies and programmes to the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development that underpin the consolidation of peace and democracy on the continent;

8. *Emphasizes* that, in full accordance with its mandate to assist the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on coordination, the Committee for Programme and Coordination should enhance its coordination role through improved cooperation with the secretariat of the Chief Executives Board and the Joint Inspection Unit, in order to increase planning efficiency and effectiveness so as to continue to ensure the timeliness of the implementation of, and prevent duplication and redundancy in, the action of the Organization;

9. *Welcomes* the intention of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to enhance its dialogue on coordination issues with the Joint Inspection Unit and the secretariat of the Chief Executives Board;

10. *Recalls* regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[3] and reiterates that the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall continue to perform its role in reviewing the strategic framework and recommend any necessary changes to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

11. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in monitoring and evaluation, and encourages the Committee, in reviewing performance and evaluation reports, to provide, inter alia, action-oriented recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and impact of the activities of the Organization;

12. *Reiterates its requests* to the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session proposals to improve the links between monitoring, evaluation, programme planning and budgeting;

13. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to utilize the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination when considering related reports of the Chief Executives Board;

14. *Welcomes* the decision by the Committee for Programme and Coordination to devote one or two meetings of its future sessions to a discussion, with high-level participation, of a specific issue in its programme of work related to coordination, and in this regard emphasizes the need for the presence of senior programme managers to assist the Committee in its deliberations;

15. *Also welcomes* the work done by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in improving its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate for further enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency, and

looks forward to the implementation of the decisions of the Committee in order to continue improving its working methods and procedures.